

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 (cancelled)

14. (new) A virtual machine implementation suitable for use in a runtime environment, the runtime environment having support libraries, wherein the virtual machine implementation communicates with the support libraries through a defined interface within the runtime environment.

15. (new) A virtual machine implementation as recited in claim 14, wherein the runtime environment that the virtual machine implementation is suitable for use in is a Java runtime environment that is arranged to execute Java class files having Java bytecodes therein.

16. (new) A runtime environment comprising:

- a virtual machine implementation;
- support libraries that include library functions;
- a defined virtual machine interface that facilitates communications between the support libraries and the virtual machine implementation, the virtual machine interface defining a number of virtual machine implementation dependent operations that must be performed by the virtual machine implementation.

17. (new) A runtime environment as recited in claim 16, wherein the virtual machine interface is arranged to define substantially all operations required by the support libraries that are virtual machine implementation dependant.

18. (new) A virtual machine implementation as recited in claim 16, wherein substantially all functions that execute operations required by the support libraries that are dependent on the implementation of the virtual machine are provided as part of the virtual machine implementation and are accessible through the defined interface.